

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 4, 7-9, 13 and 16-18 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner for being directed to non-elected subject matter. By this Amendment, Claims 1-2, 5-11 and 14-18 are amended. As support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the originally filed and published patent application, such as, for example, paragraphs [0015 and 0031] and Figures 1 and 5, and remaining amendments to the claims are made merely for cosmetic purposes, Applicants respectfully submit no new matter is presented herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts the specification does not describe another of the bushes being slidably provided to another of the straight portions. While Applicants traverse the rejection since the another of the bushes is slidably provided to the another of the straight portions because the subject bush is not held by a stopper as explained in the application and clearly illustrated in the drawings thereof, Applicants have amended the claims to recite language presented in the originally filed application in a manner believed to be responsive to the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-210713 to Orihashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,474,631 to Hadano et al. (Hadano). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein to clarify that one of the bushes is held by a stopper to a corresponding one of the straight portions of the stabilizer while another one of the bushes is provided to another of the straight portions, but free from being held thereto by a stopper. See Figures 1 and 5 where the bush on the right end of the stabilizer is provided to the other straight portion, but free from being held by a stopper. Applicants explain in paragraphs [0004 – 0007] of the instant application that it is conventional in the industry to provide stoppers (4) to the inside or outside of a corresponding bush (3), but in doing so, a sideslip distance of the stabilizer increases, plus, it is difficult to mount the stabilizer to the vehicle.

As explained in paragraphs [0015] and [0031] of the published application, according to the stabilizer of the present invention, one of the bushes is held by a stopper, wherein sideslipping of the stabilizer is inhibited. In this case, a distance between the stopper and the bush (which is also referred to as a “control width”) may be set in consideration of a bush size tolerance, wherein the tolerance is relatively small. Thus, the control width is made to be small. When the control width is small, the other bush is not held, wherein mounting the stabilizer can be facilitated even if the bushes are mounted to the stabilizer vehicle unevenly. That is, the bushes do not have to be mounted evenly to the stabilizer. Thus, the stabilizer can be easily mounted to the vehicle, and the amount of sideslip of the stabilizer is relatively small.

Applicants respectfully point out that as made clear above, the claimed invention does not simply relate to a stabilizer wherein one of the bushes is mounted without a stopper, but that the claimed structural arrangement allows the stabilizer to eliminate the need for a stopper for every bush and the need to mount each bush evenly on the

stabilizer, wherein an additional benefit is that the stabilizer is more easily mounted to the vehicle.

In the claimed invention, since the other one of the bushes is provided to a corresponding other one of the straight portions free from being held by any stopper, as Applicants attempted to explain in the Remarks section of the May 22 and June 9, 2006 Response, when the other one of the bushes is mounted to the vehicle, the other one of the bushes can slidably be provided to the corresponding other one of the straight portions along the axial direction. Therefore, as briefly mentioned above and previously discussed in the May 22 and June 9 Responses, the mounting position of the other one of bushes on the vehicle is controlled. Thus, even if a distance between the stopper and the bush is small, the claimed invention can compensate for any unevenness in the mounting position of the stopper on the stabilizer as well as any unevenness in the mounting positions of the bushes on the vehicle. Accordingly, it is relatively easy to mount the stabilizer to the vehicle compared to that which is standard in the industry. Moreover, since the control width can be small, the sideslip distance of the stabilizer relative to the vehicle is small.

Figures 1 and 5 of Orihashi discloses that which is conventional in the industry and which the presently claimed invention improves upon, that is, Orihashi discloses a stopper for each bush mounted to the stabilizer. In other words, Orihashi does not teach or suggest a bush provided to a straight portion of the stabilizer free from being held thereto by a stopper. Rather, the stoppers in Orihashi are provided to both of the straight portions so as to hold both of the bushes thereon. Therefore, Orihashi differs from the claimed invention wherein one of the other bushes is provided to a

corresponding one of the straight portions free from being held thereto by a stopper. As such, there is no way Orihashi can derive the benefits flowing from the presently claimed invention, which are discussed above.

In Hadano, as discussed in column 7, lines 24-33 and illustrated in Figure 1A, the stopper (2) is fixed to the stabilizer S so as to prevent the straight portion of the stabilizer S from moving more than a predetermined distance in the axial direction with respect to the bush 1. Therefore, Hadano, like Orihashi, differs from the claimed invention wherein one of the other bushes is provided to a corresponding one of the straight portions free from being held thereto by a stopper. As such, there is no way Hadano can derive the benefits flowing from the presently claimed invention, which are discussed above.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Orihashi and Hadano, alone or in any combination thereof, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claims 1 and 10 and also fails to provide the benefits flowing therefrom. To establish *prima facie* obviousness, each and every feature recited by a rejected claim must be taught or suggested by the applied art or record.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 10 are not rendered obvious in view of Orihashi and Hadano, and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 depend from Claim 1. Claims 11-12 and 14-15 depend from Claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 10 are allowable as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejoinder

Upon the allowance of Claims 1 and 10, Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder of non-elected Claims 4, 7-9, 13 and 16-18 as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

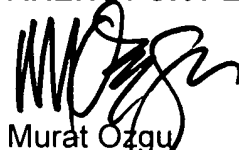
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, rejoinder of Claims 4, 7-9, 13 and 16-18, allowance of the Claims 1-18, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 108421.00077.**

Respectfully submitted,
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